

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (PER SECTO 1008)

S/S - RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 014280

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, SY

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO FAHMY ABOUT SYRIA

REFERENCE: CAIRO 682

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. YOU SHOULD MEET WITH FAHMY AND PASS HIM FOLLOWING ORAL COMMENTS FROM ME IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERIES TO YOU CONCERNING SYRIA.

2. FOLLOWING THE CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AT WHICH YOU WERE PRESENT, AMBASSADOR MURPHY RETURNED TO SYRIA AND MET WITH PRESIDENT ASAD ON JANUARY 10. MURPHY HAS HAD NO OTHER MEETINGS WITH ASAD SINCE HIS RETURN. MURPHY MADE MUCH THE SAME POINTS TO ASAD AS YOU DID TO PRESIDENT SADAT AND FAHMY, BUT IN MORE GENERAL TERMS. ASAD EXPRESSED MUCH DISAPPOINTMENT WITH OUR POSITION ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE AND SAID THAT SYRIA WAS TRYING TO TAKE A MODERATE APPROACH TO THE DEBATE AND ON A SC RESOLUTION.

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MURPHY EXPLAINED WHY WE COULD NOT ACCEPT A RESOLUTION

WHICH WOULD ALTER THE BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ASAD INSISTED THAT A SIMPLE REAFFIRMATION OF RESOLUTIONS 242 (WHICH HE SAID SYRIA DID NOT RECOGNIZE) AND 338

WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY. MURPHY EMPHASIZED OUR INTENTION TO KEEP THE PEACE PROCESS MOVING AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED TO INVOLVE THE PALESTINIANS AT SOME POINT. THE DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE AND DID NOT RESULT IN ANY AGREEMENT OR DECISION OTHER THAN TO CONSULT FURTHER AS DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK PROGRESS.

3. WITH REGARD TO FAHMY'S OTHER QUESTION, YOU MAY SAY THAT LEBANON DID NOT COME UP ON THE DISCUSSION. YOU MAY CONFIRM THAT THE IDEA OF A UNILATERAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON THE GOLAN FRONT HAD BEEN REJECTED BY ASAD PREVIOUSLY. IN LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUS SYRIAN REJECTION, THE POSSIBILITY DID NOT COME UP IN THE MEETING. IT IS NOT TRUE THAT MURPHY TOLD ASAD THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE READY TO MAKE SUCH A STEP.

4. WE APPRECIATE FAHMY'S SUGGESTION ON AID TO SYRIA AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAS IN FACT ASKED CONGRESS FOR DOLS. 90 MILLION FOR SYRIA. THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS IS STILL UNDERWAY AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT CONGRESS WILL AGREE TO.

5. PLEASE GIVE FAHMY MY BEST REGARDS AND MY HOPE THAT AFAF IS FEELING BETTER. TELL FAHMY I WILL ASK YOU TO GIVE HIM A REPORT ON MY MOSCOW TRIP WHEN I GET BACK. SISCO

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